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12-30-1976

## Newsletter - 1976-12-30

E. De la Garza

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FOR RELEASE: 30 December 1976

94-568

FROM: Kika de la Garza

Washington, D C

TAX CUTS, according to all reports, will be an early order of business in the new Administration and the new Congress. Federal taxes are too high, there's no doubt about that, and the sooner they are reduced the better it will be for all of us -- and for the U S economy. And, in my opinion, the cuts should be made in the simplest form possible.

My own contribution, or anyway my first one, to this effort will be made early in the session opening next month. I am going to introduce a bill to increase the personal exemption for every income taxpayer from \$750 to \$1,000. For a family of four this would amount to an additional exemption of a thousand dollars. I think that's worthwhile. And there would be no extra red tape, no painstaking issuance of new regulations would be called for, and the taxpayer could simply chalk off the exemption on his income tax return.

Other means of lightening the tax load borne by the citizens undoubtedly will be put forward, and should be. I again will offer legislation to offset the cost of college education to working parents. South Texans may rest assured that I will examine every such proposal carefully. My whole purpose will be to act in your best interests. There is no other reason for my being here!

\* \* \*

HELP IS NEEDED by border communities affected by the devaluation of the Mexican peso, and I have been exploring every possible way of providing help. Shortly before Christmas, I called a meeting of members of Congress from the U S-Mexico border and representatives of various federal agencies for a far-reaching appraisal of the situation. Among the federal agencies represented at the meeting were the Small Business Administration, Department of Commerce, Department of Housing & Urban Development and the Department of State. Also present were representatives from the offices of the States of Texas and New Mexico.

All the Congressman attending the meeting pledged that they would work together to seek changes in legislation to benefit the distressed communities, of which we have a number in our area. All asked the executive branch officials present to keep a careful watch on the situation along the U S-Mexico border with a view to making legislative proposals.

Legislation recommended included measures to provide for disaster assistance based on economic circumstances as well as increases in the returning travel tourist exemption. The recommendations were thoughtful and realistic and I was gratified with the interest shown in a situation which is outside the positive control of any one federal agency -- a situation of the utmost importance to many people in South Texas.

\* \* \*

IMMIGRATION ACT CHANGES passed by Congress this year will become effective on 1 January. In general, they abolish the present system in use in the Western Hemisphere and place the priority of visa availability on the first come-first served basis within preference categories. This is the system now in use in the Eastern Hemisphere. Each independent foreign state in the Western Hemisphere will have an annual limitation of 20,000 visa numbers available for issuance. The total limitation for both independent states and dependent areas may not exceed 120,000 annually.

Of interest in our area, the preference system is established this way:

(1) Unmarried sons and daughters of U S citizens; (2) Spouses and unmarried sons and daughters of aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence; (3) Members of the professions or persons of exceptional ability in the sciences and arts; (4) Married sons and daughters of U S citizens; (5) Brothers and sisters of U S citizens, who must be at least 21 years of age; (6) Skilled and unskilled workers in short supply; (7) Refugees -- this preference is administered by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. All other immigrants fall under the nonpreference category.

Natives of the Western Hemisphere who seek preference status as relatives of U S citizens or aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence should request their U S citizen or resident alien relatives to file petitions in their behalf after January 1, 1977, with the nearest office of the U S Immigration and Naturalization Service.

\* \* \*

KIDS HAVE ENERGY in full measure, as all of us parents know, but they still need to learn about energy outside their own bodies and how to use it wisely. A booklet published by the Federal Energy Administration is designed to equip children with a basic understanding of energy, its origins and its most common uses. It's also designed to stimulate students' interest in learning more about energy.

Published in English and Spanish, "Energy Activities with Energy Ant" is full of energy history, riddles and games to encourage children to learn about energy. Thousands of copies have been distributed by my office to 15th Congressional District schools. More are available and I will be glad to send them in either language on request.

\* \* \*

HAPPY NEW YEAR to everybody in South Texas! And a happy beginning of our nation's Tricentennial period to all Americans everywhere! Let us give thanks for all the blessings of the past, cast aside the thoughts of our trials and tribulations, and look to the coming year with optimism, faith and a desire to make our country and the world a better place to live in.

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VISITOR FROM HOME: Visiting my office from home this week was Colonel James P Hill of Harlingen.

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